

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02828 201502Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----103092 201511Z /43

O 201459Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3335
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02828

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: POSSIBLE APPROACH TO NKOMO

1. JOHNNY GRAHAM TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER FEBRUARY 20 THAT, IN A RECENT FCO MEETING, OWEN HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH NKOMO IN THIS POST-ANNOUNCEMENT PERIOD. OWEN WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO APPROACH NKOMO WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT HE NOW MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN THE SALISBURY TALKS. OWEN THOUGHT THE SUGGESTIO WOULD PROBABLY COME BETTER FROM THE AMERICANS THAN THE BRITISH. GRAHAM SAID AMBASSADOR LOW, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD TALK TO NKOMO. HE WANTED TO KNOW INFORMALLY WHAT OUR RE ACTION MIGHT BE.

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2. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT WE COULD DOUBTLESS SEE THE LOGIC OF THE SUGGESTION BUT NOT THE POLITICS. ANY SUCH SUGGESTION TO NKOMO WOULD LIKELY BE INTERPRETED AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE SALISBURY TALKS AND WOULD BE TAKEN AS CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP T ALL ALONG. GRAHAM TENDED TO AGREE, BUT AGAIN STRESSING IN-

FORMALITY, ASKED THAT THE IDEA BE PASSED TO WASHINGTON.

STREATOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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